

Message Text

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R 171146Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FODAG

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BOGOTA,
BRASILIA, GUATEMALA, GUAYAQUIL, MANAGUA, PANAMA, QUITO,
SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA FROM SAN JOSE MAY 16:

QUOTELIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 1856

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: BANANA MEETING

1. THE FIRST, SESSION OF THE SAN JOSE BANANA
PRODUCERS MEETING GOT UNDERWAY AT 9:05 P.M. LAST NIGHT WITH
COLOMBIA, PANAMA, NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS ALL SENDING
MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATIONS. NEITHER ECUADOR NOR GUATEMALA,
HOWEVER, WERE REPRESENTED. IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICAL DELEGATIONS,
THE CACM SECRETARIAT, SIECA, AND FAO WERE REPRESENTED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING
BEGINS TODAY WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENDA:

A. INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION OF THE
AGREEMENT OF PANAMA (I.E. THE EXPORT TAX).

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B. PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF THE UNION OF BANANA EXPORT

COUNTRIES (UPEB).

C. COORDINATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING FAO MEETING IN ROME.

D. MISCELLANEOUS.

3. ACCORDING TO LA REPUBLICA, IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS MINISTER OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE SANCHEZ REFERRED TO INTERFERENCE WITH WHAT THE BANANA PRODUCERS WERE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: "SOME GROUPS INTERESTED IN (OUR GOVERNMENTS') ACTION:: HAVE TRIED TO UNDO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE HAVE MADE". THE COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY REPLIED "INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE NO LONGER SHOULD BE REGULATED BY THE (PRINCIPLES OF) SUPPLY AND DEMAND, BUT BY EQUITY AND JUSTICE".

4. COMMENT: IN AN HOUR LONG SESSION ON THE EVENING OF MAY 14 WITH EX-MINISTER CLAUDIO ALPIZAR, ONE OF THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATES, AND EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED THE U.S. POSITION ON THE BANANA TAX IN SOME DETAIL. WHILE SEEMINGLY UNDERSTANDING THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE J.S. POSITION, ALPIZAR APPEARED DEEPLY DISTURBED BY WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A FUNDAMENTAL MISUNDERSTANDING BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE POSITION IN WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FIND THEMSELVES IN THE PRESENT WORLD CHARACTERIZED BY AN ENTIRELY NEW DIMENSION TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. ALPIZAR ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DISMAY THAT UNTIED BRANDS HAD NOT YET SEEN FIT TO RESPOND TO THE GOCR'S REQUEST THAT IT SEND A DELEGATION TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR AMENDMENT OF UNITED'S CONTRACT. LANE UNQUOTE RUSH

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